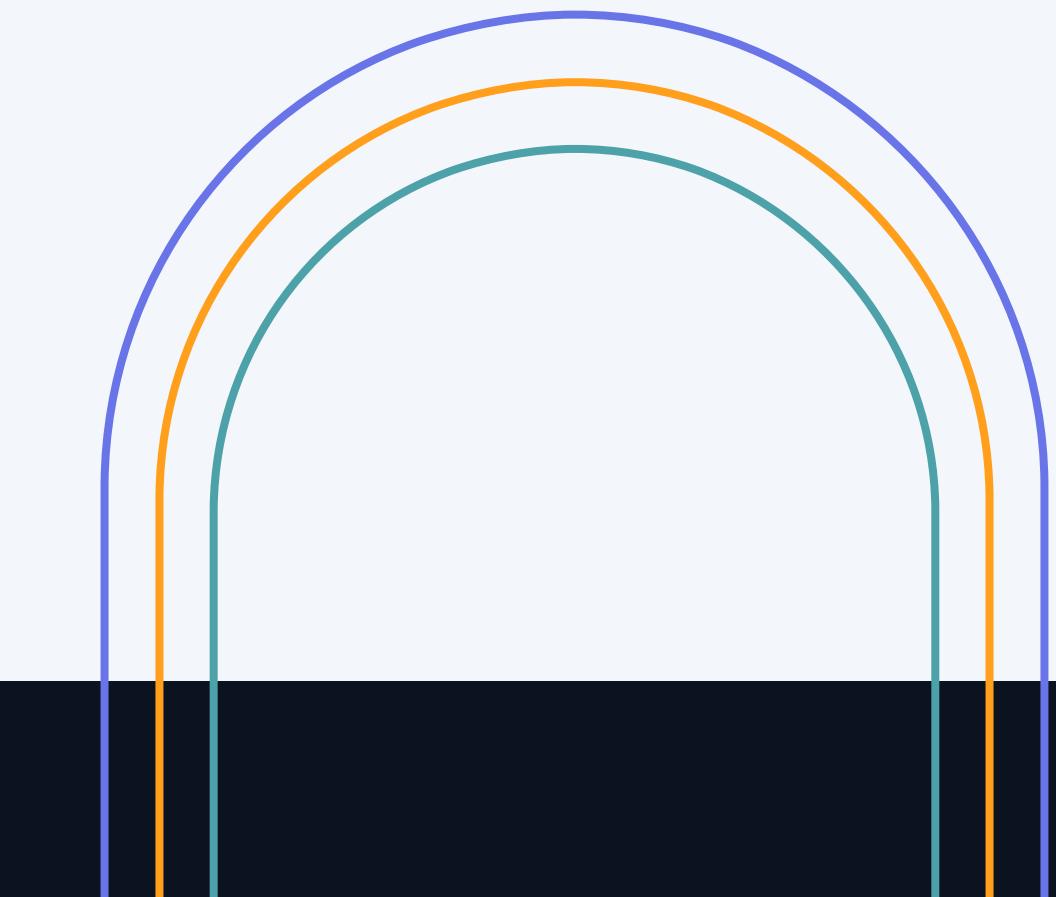


Arlington Votes 16

Warrant Article

#**22**

Sophie Shen, junior at Arlington High School



We want to lower the voting age in order to:

1

Improve civic
engagement



2

Strengthen civics
education



3

Empower Young people



01.

Improving
Civic
Engagement

...

Voting is a Habit



- Studies show that voting is a habit
 - Once someone votes in one election, they are more likely to vote in subsequent elections
 - Lowering the voting age in local elections can serve as a catalyst for increased turnout nationwide in later elections.
- Higher turnout is better for our democracy, then lowering the voting age is one path to achieve that goal

American Journal of Political Science

02.

Strengthening Civics Education

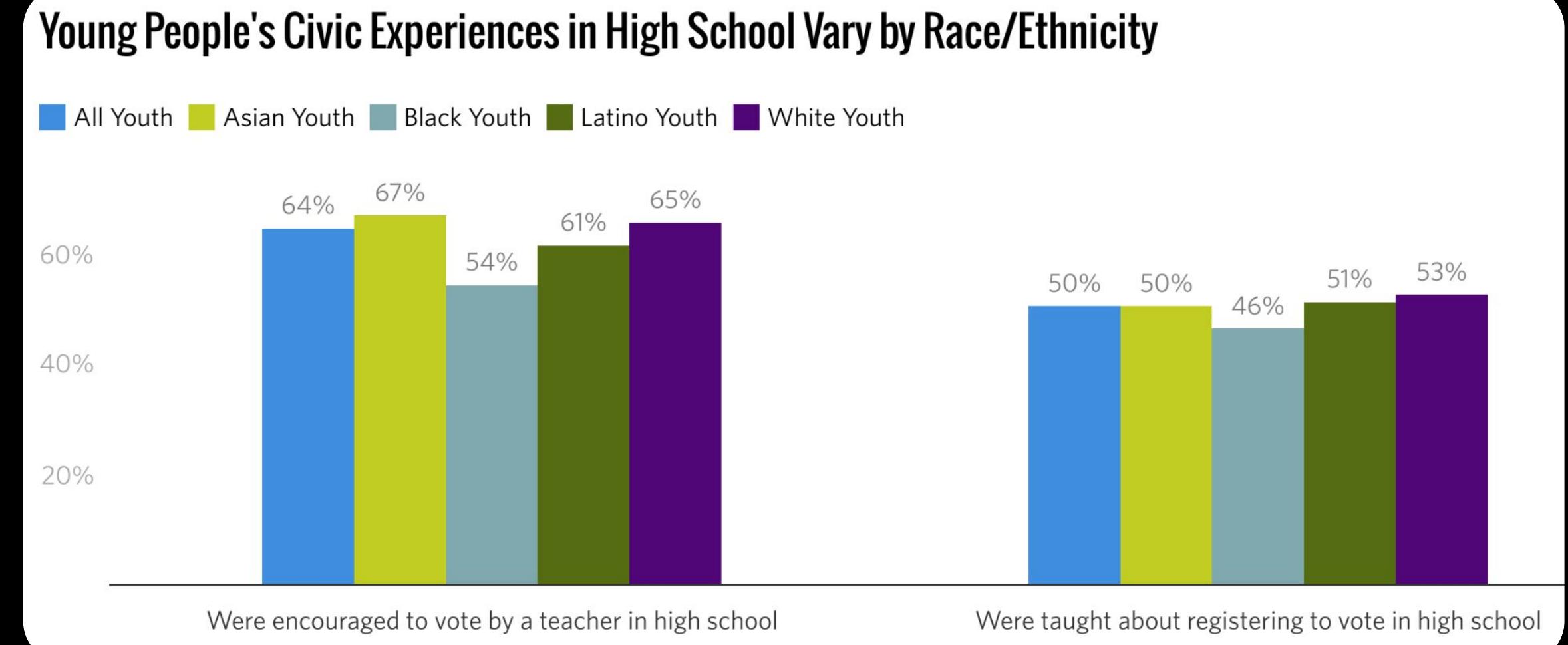


Tufts Findings



Encourage students to vote because:

We can promote
more diverse voices!
Black and Latinx
youth least likely to
be taught about
voter registration



03. —

Empower
Young People

16 Year Olds are Ready to Vote

- “Cold” cognition makes up deliberation and measured decision making.
 - “The dorsolateral prefrontal cortex, which tends to develop at about age 15, controls the functions of planning and abstract, logical reasoning”
 - These “cold” cognition capabilities do not improve in later years.
- 16 and 17 year olds scored about the same as older adults on measures of political tolerance, skill, efficacy, and interest

Common myths



Myth #1

16 and 17 year olds are not responsible enough to vote

16 and 17 year olds can

- Drive
- Work jobs
- Pay taxes
- Be tried as adults for serious crimes

Common myths



Myth #2

Young people are not interested in politics

- Model Congress and Model UN
 - Over 1,500 students participate in Harvard Model Congress each year, and it continues to grow.
- Protests (climate, war, etc.)

Success in Austria

Study done in 2010

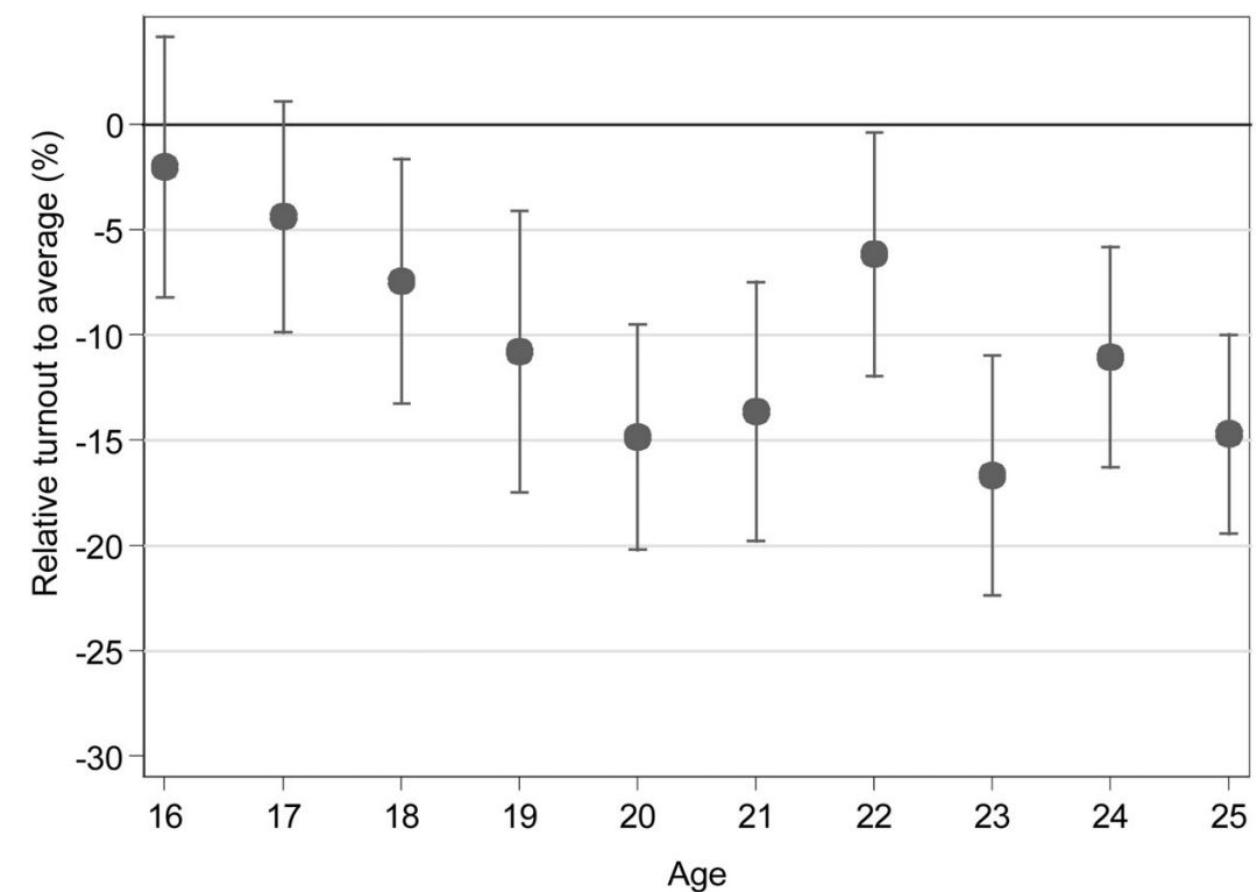
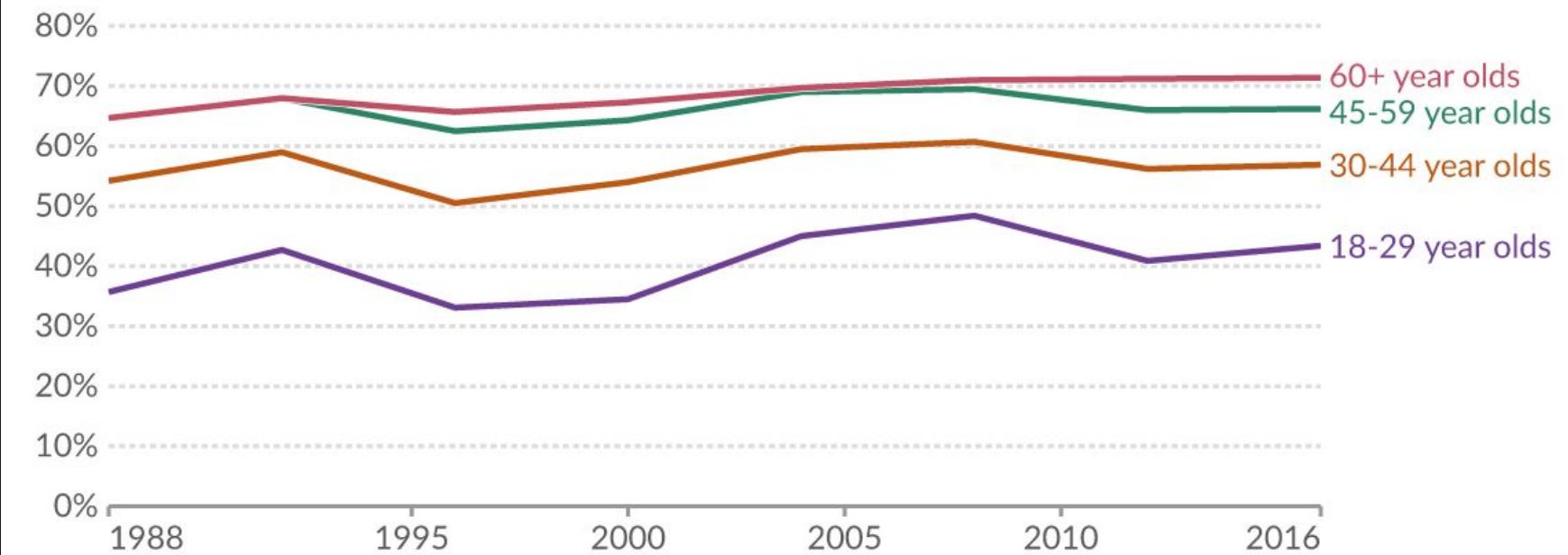


Figure 1. Turnout rate by age in Vienna using the maximum turnout estimator, relative to average turnout (67.6%).

Note: Graph for Vienna shows confidence intervals for the proportion (+/-1.96*S.E.); total n=5,411 within 59 clusters.

Election voter turnout rate by age in the United States

Percentage of voting-age citizens in the United States who voted in the presidential election.



Data source: United States Elections Project

OurWorldInData.org/usa-electoral-turnout | CC BY

Common myths



Myth #3

This is just an extra
vote for the children's
parents

- We see differently in studies conducted in Scotland, whose voting age is 16
 - Teens are equally likely to vote the same as their parents as they are to vote differently

Other Efforts to Lower the Voting Age to 16

Within the State

Boston, Cambridge, Somerville
[H.720/S.389 \(191\)](#), [H.686 \(193\)](#)

Within the Country

San Francisco, California; Maryland;
Washington D.C.

Worldwide

**Austria, Brazil, Scotland, Norway,
Argentina, Cuba, etc.**



thank you!



Tufts Findings



Encourage students to vote because:

They are more likely to look upon voting favorably later in life and be more educated

Youth Taught or Encouraged to Vote in High School Are Better Prepared for the 2020 Election

The percentage of young people, 18-29, in each category for whom the following is true:

■ Received Encouragement to Vote in High School ■ Taught about Voter Registration in High School ■ Both ■ Neither

Are paying "Some" or "A Lot" of attention to the 2020 elections



Agree that the outcomes of the 2020 election will make a significant impact on everyday issues involving their community



Have ever seen information about how to vote by mail or absentee

